



**GOODWILL MESSAGE BY SENATOR GEORGE AKUME, CON, SECRETARY
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION & CHAIRMAN, NEITI
NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' WORKING GROUP (NSWG), AT THE
HANDOVER CEREMONY OF THE OUTGOING ES, DR. ORJI OGBONNAYA
ORJI, TO THE INCOMING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, HON. MUSA SARKIN
ADAR HELD AT THE NEITI HOUSE, WUYE ON 27TH, NOVEMBER 2025.**

Protocol,

It is my honor to deliver this goodwill message on a significant day in the life of NEITI and in the evolution of our nation's extractive governance architecture. Leadership transition is an essential moment for institutional continuity, renewal, and strengthening. Today, we witness such a moment—guided by order, responsibility, and respect for due process.

2. Let me begin by commending the outgoing Executive Secretary, Dr. Orji Ogonnaya Orji, for his exemplary service over the past five years. Dr. Orji brought to NEITI a deep commitment to transparency, institutional reform, and stakeholder collaboration. His leadership delivered historic milestones, including the acquisition and relocation to NEITI's permanent office, expansion of industry reporting, strengthened public disclosures, improved inter-agency partnerships, and enhanced stakeholder confidence in the EITI process. His tenure stands as a reference point for integrity, professionalism, and transformative public service.

3. I approved Dr. Orji's voluntary request to proceed on his well-deserved terminal leave with benefits. Mr. President extends his appreciation for Dr. Orji's meritorious service to the nation. As he hands over the reins of leadership

today, I wish to place on record, on behalf of the President and the entire NSWG, our profound gratitude for his dedication, patriotism, and impactful stewardship. We wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

4. I also congratulate the new Executive Secretary, Hon. Musa Sarkin Adar, on his well-deserved appointment. The President and the NSWG have full confidence in his capacity to consolidate on the achievements recorded and to steer NEITI toward even greater heights. Hon. Adar brings a wealth of leadership experience, a strong legislative background, and a deep understanding of governance issues—qualities that will further strengthen NEITI's work and advance Nigeria's commitment to transparency and accountability in the extractive sector.

5. The mandate before NEITI remains clear: to strengthen openness, ensure responsible resource management, and sustain public trust. I call on the Board, management, staff, civil society, the private sector, and development partners to unite behind the new Executive Secretary to ensure continued progress.

6. As Chairman of the NSWG, I reaffirm the unwavering support of the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation for this transition and for NEITI's ongoing reforms. Together, we will continue to advance Nigeria's extractive governance agenda in line with global EITI Standards.

7. I wish both the outgoing and incoming Executive Secretaries success, wisdom, and God's guidance. May NEITI continue to thrive as a model of integrity and good governance in our public institutions.

8. I thank you for your kind attention.